**Special Duty Allowance to employees belonging to NER**

2359. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Departments which are not paying Special Duty Allowance (SDA) to employees belonging to the NER;

(b) the reasons for not paying the SDA; and

(c) the action taken by Government to rectify this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Special Duty Allowance is admissible to Central Government Civilian employees who have 'All India Transfer Liability' and are posted in the North East Region from outside the region as an incentive to serve in North East Region. All Departments of Central Government are paying Special Duty Allowance to eligible employees fulfilling the prescribed criterion.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

**NPAs of Punjab and Sind Bank**

2360. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether while reviewing the performance of Punjab and Sind Bank, the bank authorities were advised to monitor its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and to bring them within a reasonable limit in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the NPAs of the bank as on the 31st March, 2001;

(c) the extent to which it has been reduced till date; and

(d) what are future plans especially for the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that its gross NPAs as on 31st March, 2001 was Rs. 1026.15 crores.

(c) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that it had made gross recoveries of Rs. 63.33 crores during the current financial year upto 31st October, 2001 in its